



Billing Code 4710-06

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10934]

Notice of Information Collection under OMB Emergency Review: Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage

ACTION: Notice of request for emergency review and approval by OMB and public comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of State (“Department”) has submitted the information collection request described below to the Office of Management and Budget (“OMB”) for review and approval in accordance with the emergency review procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The purpose of this notice is to allow for public comment from all interested individuals and organizations. Emergency review and approval of this collection has been requested from OMB by November 1, 2019. If granted, the approval is only valid for 180 days. The Department is separately submitting a 3 year approval through OMB’s normal PRA clearance process.

ADDRESSES: Direct any comments on this request to both the Department of State Desk Officer in the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and to the Department of State’s Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Visa Services.

All public comments must be received by October 31, 2019.

You may submit comments to OMB by the following methods:

- *E-mail:* oira_submission@omb.eop.gov. You must include the DS form number, information collection title, and OMB control number in the subject line of your message.
- *Fax:* 202-395-5806. Attention: Desk Officer for Department of State.
You may submit comments to the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Visa Office by the following methods:
- *Web:* Persons with access to the Internet may comment on this notice by going to www.Regulations.gov. You can search for the document by entering “Docket Number: DOS-2019-0039” in the Search field. Then click the “Comment Now” button and complete the comment form.
- *E-mail:* PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov. You must include *Emergency Submission Comment on “information collection title”* in the subject line of your message.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents to Megan Herndon, who may be reached at (202) 485-7586 or at PRA_BurdenComments@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Immigrant Health Insurance Coverage
- *OMB Control Number:* None
- *Type of Request:* Emergency Review
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Consular Affairs, Visa Office (CA/VO)

- Form Number: DS-5541 (oral information collection)
- Respondents: Certain immigrant visa applicants
- Estimated Number of Respondents: 450,500
- Estimated Number of Responses: 450,500
- Average Time Per Response: 10 minutes
- Total Estimated Burden Time: 75,083 hours
- Frequency: Once per respondent's application
- Obligation to respond: Required to Obtain or Retain a Benefit

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden of this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review

Abstract of Proposed Collection

The Presidential Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry of Immigrants Who Will Financially Burden the United States Healthcare System ("PP 9945") requires

immigrant visa applicants to establish, to the satisfaction of a consular officer, that the applicant will be covered by an approved health insurance plan within 30 days of entry into the United States, unless the applicant possesses sufficient financial resources to cover reasonably foreseeable medical costs. Proclamation No. 9945, 84 FR 53991 (Oct. 4, 2019). Section 3 of the Proclamation authorizes the Secretary of State to establish standards and procedures for governing such determinations. *Id.* PP 9945 was signed on October 4, 2019, and emergency review of this information collection is necessary for the Department to prepare consular officers to implement PP 9945 when it goes into effect on November 3, 2019.

Methodology

Consular officers will verbally ask immigrant visa applicants covered by PP 9945 whether they will be covered by health insurance in the United States within 30 days of entry to the United States and, if so, for details relating to such insurance. Proclamation No. 9945, 84 FR 53991 (Oct. 4, 2019). PP 9945 only applies to applicants seeking to enter the United States pursuant to an immigrant visa. If applicants answer affirmatively, consular officers will ask for applicants to identify the specific health insurance plan, the date coverage will begin, and such other information related to the insurance plan as the consular officer deems necessary. PP 9945 does not suspend or limit the entry of applicants if they do not have coverage, but possess financial resources to pay for reasonably foreseeable medical expenses. Reasonably foreseeable medical expenses are those expenses related to existing medical conditions, relating to health issues existing at the time of visa adjudication.

PP 9945 does not apply to holders of valid immigrant visas issued before the effective date of the proclamation; aliens seeking to enter the United States pursuant to a Special Immigrant Visa, in either the SI or SQ classification; any alien who is seeking to enter the United States pursuant to an IR-2, CR-2, IR-3, IR-4, IH-3, or IH-4 visa; aliens seeking to enter pursuant to an IR-5 visa, provided the alien or alien's sponsor demonstrates to the satisfaction of consular officers that they will not impose a substantial burden on the United States healthcare system; aliens seeking to enter the United States pursuant to a SB-1 visa; any alien under the age of 18, except for any alien accompanying a parent who is also immigrating to the United States and subject to PP 9945; any alien whose entry would further important United States law enforcement objectives, as determined by the Secretary of State or his designee based on a recommendation from the Attorney General or his designee; or aliens whose entry would be in the national interest, as determined by the Secretary of State or his designee on a case-by-case basis.

Edward J. Ramotowski,

Deputy Assistant Secretary,

Visa Services,

Bureau of Consular Affairs,

Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2019-23639 Filed: 10/29/2019 8:45 am; Publication Date: 10/30/2019]